

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071595
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:FLW
APPROVED BY EA - MR. GLEYSSTEEN
P - DONOHUE
S/S- RGAMBLE

-----010221Z 116228 /45
O 312345Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071595

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, US

SUBJECT: LETTER TO THE SECRETARY FROM NORTH KOREAN
FOREIGN MINISTER

1. ON MARCH 28 SAMUEL NOUMOFF, AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR AT
MCGILL UNIVERSITY, DELIVERED TO EA/K DIRECTOR HURWITZ A
LETTER TO THE SECRETARY FROM NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER
HO TAM. NOUMOFF SAID THE LETTER HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HIM BY
HO AT A MEETING THEY HAD HAD DURING A VISIT TO PYONGYANG
BY NOUMOFF IN FEBRUARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT LETTER:

QUOTE
PYONGYANG, FEBRUARY 11, 1977
I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO YOU, CONSIDERING IT NECESSARY
TO JOINTLY SEEK A PRACTICAL WAY FOR EASING THE TENSIONS IN
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KOREA, WITH YOUR ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE AS SECRETARY OF STATE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS AN OCCASION.

THOUGH 23 YEARS HAVE ALREADY ELAPSED SINCE THE ARMISTICE
WAS REALIZED IN KOREA, THE SITUATION IN THIS AREA HAS NOT
YET BEEN IMPROVED AND THE TENSION PERSISTS.

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER HAS EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO PULL THE U.S. TROOPS AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS OUT OF SOUTH KOREA.

THIS IS WELCOME AND FOCUSES THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD PEOPLE.

THE KOREAN PEOPLE ALSO WELCOME IT.

WE HAVE INVARIABLY HELD THAT THE QUESTION OF KOREA'S REUNIFICATION SHOULD BE SOLVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS AND CLARIFIED TIME AND AGAIN THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF "INVADING THE SOUTH."

WE CONSIDER THAT POSITIVE TALKS SHOULD BE HELD BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN ORDER TO EASE TENSIONS CREATED IN KOREA AND MAINTAIN AND CONSOLIDATE PEACE THERE.

IF CONTACTS AND TALKS ARE ARRANGED BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TENSIONS ARE EASED IN KOREA, IT WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN ASIA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

I EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT YOU WILL SHOW AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO THIS LETTER.

HO DAM
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA UNQUOTE

3. ON MARCH 31, HURWITZ CALLED IN KOREAN EMBASSY COUNSEL-
LOR YU CHONG-HA TO INFORM HIM ABOUT DELIVERY OF LETTER.
HURWITZ BRIEFED YU IN DETAIL ABOUT CONTENT OF LETTER BUT
DID NOT GIVE HIM A COPY. HE TOLD YU THAT WE PLANNED TO
MAKE NO RESPONSE TO THE NORTH KOREANS BUT WOULD TELL THE
AMERICAN INTERMEDIARY ORALLY THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO MEET
WITH THE NORTH KOREANS ONLY IF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
ROK WAS PRESENT. HURWITZ DECLINED YU'S REQUEST TO IDEN-
TIFY THE INTERMEDIARY, NOTING ONLY THAT HE WAS AN
"AMERICAN PROFESSOR". YU EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BEING
KEPT INFORMED.

4. EMBASSY MAY BRIEF MOFA ALONG LINES PARA 3.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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